



EARTH SCIENCE

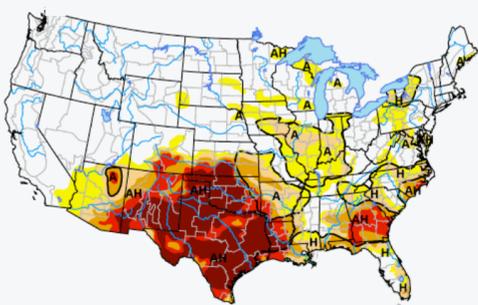
FOUNDATION SCIENCE

2001-2012

Life's Blood: Seeking Water from the Earth

Water is personal. It makes up 50-70 percent of your body and makes life possible. No one can doubt that water is a vital resource, but is there any reason to worry about it?

U.S. DROUGHT



What's the Story? WATER RUNNING DRY

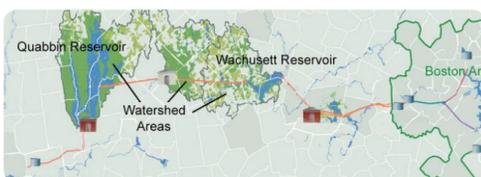
2011 was a dry year for Texas. As of August 30, 2011, more than 80% of the state's land area was considered to be experiencing "exceptional drought" conditions. The dry conditions caused wildfires to burn out of control in some parts of the state, and ranchers and farmers struggled to cope as cattle ponds and farm fields dried up.



Where does your water come from?

SURFACE OR GROUNDWATER?

HOW DOES WATER GET FROM SURFACE AND GROUNDWATER SUPPLIES TO PEOPLE'S HOMES?



WATER FOR COMMUNITIES IN THE BOSTON AREA IS PUMPED FROM THE QUABBIN RESERVOIR, MANY MILES AWAY.

READING →

The Unique Qualities of Water

It may be tempting to take water for granted. But water has unique qualities that make it absolutely essential to human survival.

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY →

Reservoir Roulette: A Journey Through the Water Cycle

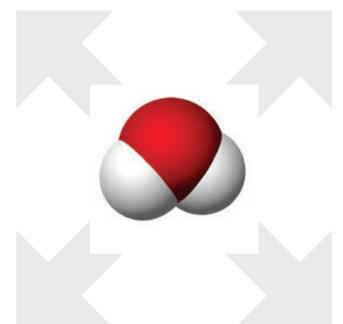
How could a water molecule get from the top of Mount Everest into a cup of homemade chicken soup in Iowa? From a Galapagos finch to a wolf in Siberia?

Where's the Drinking Water?

How can you use working physical models to investigate how drinking water collects in surface water reservoirs and groundwater aquifers?



HOOVER DAM



Questions for YOU to think about:

- 1 Where does *your* water come from?
- 2 Many communities in the world are facing shortages of freshwater. Could your water supply be threatened?
- 3 In what ways can changes in technology positively or negatively affect the availability of water supplies?